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CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP 88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02210			CONTINO, PAUL F	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2114		

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/072,140	LAUTERBACH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Paul Contino	2114

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 07 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see REMARKS on pages 12-18, filed October 20, 2005, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-34 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Aguilar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,807).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10, 16-20, 24-26, 28-29, 31, and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aguilar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,807).

As in claim 1, Aguilar et al. discloses a file server system for a computer having a processor (*Fig. 1 #210*), a memory coupled to the processor (*Fig. 1 #216*), and a system bus to which the processor and memory are coupled (*Fig. 1 #212,220*), the computer being configured to implement a file system (*Fig. 1; column 3 lines 48-52*) comprising:

a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor (*column 4 lines 38-57*);

a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to the system bus, the removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system (*Fig. 1 #262,218; column 4 lines 60-67 and column 5 lines 2-5; removable nonvolatile memory device 262 is interpreted as being coupled to the system bus 212 via core logic chipset 218*); and

a set of boot instructions resident in the filer server system including instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system (*column 4 lines 40-42*), and including instructions enabling the processor to identify the removable nonvolatile memory device and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to execute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine (*column 5 lines 47-60, where the execution of an initial startup instruction with an address mapped to the flash card 262 is interpreted as an execution the processor to execute a diagnostics boot routine*).

As in claim 2, Aguilar discloses the removable nonvolatile memory device is a compact flash, the compact flash being divided into a plurality of partitions with the diagnostics code residing in at least one of the partitions (*Fig. 1 #264,268; column 4 lines 58-67 and column 6*

lines 29-30, where program 264 and program 268 are interpreted as residing in respective partitions).

As in claim 4, Aguilar et al. discloses a[n] input/output device coupled to the system bus, and [in] which input/output device is identifiable by the processor (*Fig. 1 #260; column 4 lines 59-61; the flash connector 260 is inherently identifiable by the processor in order to transfer data from the flash card 262 to the RAM 216; the flash connector 260 is interpreted as being connected to the system bus 220 via core logic chipset 218*); and

a second bus coupled between the input/output device and the compact flash (*Fig. 1 #266*) in such a manner that when the processor identifies the input/output device, the compact flash is, in turn, initialized and the diagnostics code is executed upon a command to run a diagnostics boot routine (*column 4 lines 58-67 and column 5 lines 2-5 and 47-58*).

As in claim 5, Aguilar et al. discloses a storage adapter coupled to the system bus (*column 3 line 51 and column 4 lines 12-21, where the server is interpreted as a storage adapter connected to the system bus 220 via network interface 250*); and

at least one storage disk coupled to the storage adapter and containing files served by the operating system (*column 4 lines 40-57, where the applications are interpreted as files being served by the OS*).

As in claim 7, Aguilar et al. discloses a motherboard upon which the processor, the memory, and the set of boot instructions reside (*column 4 lines 2-5*).

As in claim 8, Aguilar et al. discloses the removable nonvolatile memory device containing the diagnostics code is resident external to the motherboard, and the diagnostics code on the removable nonvolatile memory device is adapted to be upgraded or amended free of taking the system out of service (*Fig. 1 #262, compact flash card external to the motherboard; system 200 is interpreted as not being dependent upon the compact flash card in order to operate, column 3 line 44 through column 4 line 57*).

As in claim 10, Aguilar et al. discloses said boot instructions reside in firmware (*column 4 lines 39-40, where the startup program boot instructions 214 reside in ROM firmware 214*).

As in claim 16, Aguilar et al. discloses a storage system for a computer configured to implement a file system (*Fig. 1; column 3 lines 48-52*), the storage system having a processor (*Fig. 1 #210*), a memory coupled to the processor and having memory locations addressable by the processor (*Fig. 1 #216*), a system bus to which the memory and the processor are coupled (*Fig. 1 #212,220*), an operating system adapted to be executed by the processor (*column 4 lines 40-41*), system firmware containing instructions for power-on self tests and a set of instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system after a power-on self test is completed (*column 4 lines 39-42*), the storage system comprising:

means for storing a set of diagnostics instructions comprising diagnostics code, in a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to the system bus, the removable nonvolatile memory device being identifiable to the system (*Fig. 1 #262,218; column 4 lines 60-67 and*

column 5 lines 2-5; removable nonvolatile memory device 262 is interpreted as being coupled to the system bus 212 via core logic chipset 218); and

means for executing the diagnostics code in response to a diagnostics boot command received by system firmware (*column 5 lines 2-5 and lines 50-58*).

As in claim 17, Aguilar et al. discloses means for coupling the removable nonvolatile memory device to the processor in such a manner that the diagnostics code may be upgraded without taking the storage system out of normal service (*system 200 is interpreted as not being dependent upon the compact flash card in order to operate, column 3 line 44 through column 4 line 57*).

As in claim 18, Aguilar et al. discloses a means for upgrading the diagnostics code by interfacing with the storage system through an associated input/output interface (*column 5 lines 7-9, where the means for upgrading is available*).

As in claim 19, Aguilar et al. discloses [a] computer-readable medium operating on a computer in a network that includes one or more storage systems sharing volumes, the computer-readable medium including program instructions for performing the steps of:

initiating a power-on self test when the computer is powered-on (*column 4 lines 40-42*);

identifying devices present in the computer (*column 5 lines 15-25*);

in response to a successful power-on self test, commencing a normal boot routine (*column 5 lines 38-40*);

recognizing a command for a diagnostics boot (*column 5 lines 54-58*);
in response to the diagnostics boot command, probing devices to locate a removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostic boot instructions (*column 5 lines 54-58*); and
interrupting the normal boot routine and executing the diagnostics code for a diagnostics boot for the computer (*column 5 lines 50-60*).

As in claim 20, Aguilar et al. discloses further instruction to identify a compact flash as the removable nonvolatile memory device in which diagnostics code for the computer is stored (*column 4 line 58 through column 5 line 5, and column 5 lines 50-60*).

As in claim 24, Aguilar et al. discloses a diagnostic system for use with a storage system comprising:

a removable nonvolatile memory device interconnected with the storage system, wherein the removable nonvolatile memory device contain[s] boot diagnostic code that is loadable into the storage system as an alternative to a normal boot routine (*column 4 line 58 through column 5 line 5*).

As in claim 25, Aguilar et al. discloses the removable nonvolatile memory device further comprises a plurality of partitions (*Fig. 1 #264,268; column 4 lines 58-67 and column 6 lines 29-30, where program 264 and program 268 are interpreted as residing in respective partitions*).

As in claim 26, Aguilar et al. discloses the boot diagnostic code is contained within a first partition of the plurality of partitions (*Fig. 1 #268; column 6 lines 28-40*).

As in claim 28, Aguilar et al. discloses the removable nonvolatile memory device is a PC card (*column 4 lines 58-67, which is interpreted as a type of PC card*).

As in claim 29, Aguilar et al. discloses the removable nonvolatile memory device is a compact flash (*column 4 line 61*).

As in claim 31, Aguilar et al. discloses a file server system for a computer having a processor, a memory coupled to the processor, and a system bus to which the processor and memory are coupled, the computer being configured to implement a file system, the file system comprising:

a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor (*column 4 lines 38-57*);

a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to the system bus, the removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system (*Fig. 1 #262,218; column 4 lines 60-67 and column 5 lines 2-5; removable nonvolatile memory device 262 is interpreted as being coupled to the system bus 212 via core logic chipset 218*), the removable nonvolatile memory device also divided into a plurality of partitions with the diagnostics code residing in at least one of the partitions (*Fig. 1 #264,268; column 4 lines 58-67 and column 6 lines 29-30, where program 264 and program 268 are interpreted as residing in respective partitions*); and

a set of boot instructions resident in the filer server system including instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system (*column 4 lines 40-42*), and including instructions enabling the processor to identify the removable nonvolatile memory device and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to execute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine (*column 5 lines 47-60, where the execution of an initial startup instruction with an address mapped to the flash card 262 is interpreted as an execution the processor to execute a diagnostics boot routine*).

As in claim 33, Aguilar et al. discloses a separate storage medium, the separate storage medium storing a boot routine (*Fig. 1 #264,268; column 6 lines 28-30, where the separate storage medium is interpreted as partition 268*).

As in claim 34, Aguilar et al. discloses the separate storage medium is a partition on the removable nonvolatile storage device (*Fig. 1 #264,268; column 6 lines 28-30, where the separate storage medium is interpreted as partition 268*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3, 9, 21-23, 27, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aguilar et al. in view of Orr (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,114).

As in claim 3, Aguilar et al. teaches partitions of a compact flash. However, Aguilar et al. fails to teach of partitions designated as a maintenance log. Orr teaches of partitions in a flash memory designated as a maintenance log into which test results and data are stored (*test results: column 7 lines 25-27; data: column 5 line 34*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the maintenance log as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment.

As in claim 9, Aguilar et al. teaches of code relating to the diagnostics of hardware devices (*column 5 line 60*). However, Aguilar et al. fails to disclose specific hardware devices. Orr teaches said diagnostic code includes code relating to the diagnostics of hardware devices including the processor, the memory, the buses, the adapters, the disks, a compact flash and interfaces thereof (*Fig 2, column 5 lines 35-43*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the hardware diagnostics as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with

compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment.

As in claim 21, Aguilar et al. teaches of diagnostic tests. However, Aguilar et al. fails to teach of saving diagnostic results in the compact flash. Orr teaches of saving diagnostic test results and other data in a predetermined address location in the nonvolatile memory associated with the computer (*test results: column 7 lines 25-27; data: column 5 line 34*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the saving as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment.

As in claim 22, Orr discloses the diagnostics boot command is initiated by a human maintenance operator (*Orr: column 5 lines 59-62; Aguilar et al.: column 7 lines 5-9 and 57-59*).

As in claim 23, Orr discloses the diagnostics boot command is initiated as an instruction in the computer readable medium upon the occurrence of a predetermined event (*column 5 line 56 through column 6 line 5, where the predetermined event may be interpreted as the flag defined in the CMOS*).

As in claim 27, Aguilar et al. teaches partitions of a compact flash. However, Aguilar et al. fails to teach of partitions designated as a diagnostic log. Orr teaches of partitions in a

removable nonvolatile memory device comprising a second partition, the second partition storing a diagnostic log (*test results: column 7 lines 25-27; data: column 5 line 34*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the diagnostic log as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment.

As in claim 30, Aguilar et al. teaches of a firmware boot routine. However, Aguilar et al. fails to teach of the firmware boot routine selecting between execution of a normal or diagnostic boot routine. Orr teaches a firmware boot routine (*Fig. 2, column 5 lines 17-19*), the firmware boot routine having a process for selecting between execution of either a normal boot routing or a diagnostic boot routine (*column 5 line 56 through column 6 line 5*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the diagnostic log as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment. Further, Aguilar et al. discloses both a normal boot routine and a diagnostic boot routine.

As in claim 32, Aguilar et al. teaches partitions of a compact flash. However, Aguilar et al. fails to teach of partitions designated as a maintenance log. Orr teaches of partitions in a flash memory designated as a maintenance log into which test results and data are stored (*test results: column 7 lines 25-27; data: column 5 line 34*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the maintenance log as disclosed by Orr in the invention of Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment.

* * *

4. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orr in view of Aguilar et al.

As in claim 11, Orr discloses a method of performing diagnostics in a filer system comprising the steps of:

providing a removable nonvolatile memory device interfaced with the motherboard, the nonvolatile memory device being identifiable to the processor (*column 5 lines 14-15 and 21-23*);
dividing the nonvolatile memory device into separate partitions (*Fig. 2, column 5 lines 14-31*);

storing a set of diagnostics instructions, being a diagnostics code, in one of the partitions of the nonvolatile memory device (*column 5 lines 21-24*); and

programming the system firmware to recognize a user implemented command for a diagnostics boot such that in response to the diagnostics boot command, the firmware loads the diagnostics code residing in the nonvolatile memory device into the memory to execute a diagnostic boot routine instead of a normal boot routine (*column 5 lines 56-59*).

However, Orr fails to disclose a removable nonvolatile memory or a write anywhere file layout system. Aguilar et al. discloses a removable nonvolatile memory (*column 4 line 58 through column 5 line 5*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the removable nonvolatile memory as taught by Aguilar et al. in the invention of Orr. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment as that taught by Orr.

As in claim 12, Orr discloses maintaining, in a separate partition of the nonvolatile memory, a maintenance log into which test results and data about the storage system are stored (*test results: column 7 lines 25-27; data: column 5 line 34*).

As in claim 13, Aguilar teaches of a compact flash (*column 4 lines 58-67*).

As in claim 14, Aguilar teaches of a compact flash card (*column 4 lines 58-67, which is interpreted as a type of PC card*).

As in claim 15, Aguilar et al. teaches of a method to keep the system operational during an upgrade (*system 200 is interpreted as not being dependent upon the compact flash card in order to operate, column 3 line 44 through column 4 line 57*).

* * *

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orr in view of Aguilar et al., further in view of Hitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,962).

As in claim 6, Orr discloses a file server system (*column 4 lines 32-34*) comprising:
a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor (*column 5 lines 5-9*);
a nonvolatile memory device coupled to the system bus, the removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system (*column 5 lines 14-15 and 21-23*);
a set of boot instructions resident in the filer server system including instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system (*Fig. 2, column 5 lines 17-19*), and including instructions enabling the processor to identify the nonvolatile memory device and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to execute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine (*column 5 lines 56-59*);
a storage adapter coupled to the system bus (*column 5 lines 2-4*);
at least one storage disk coupled to the storage adapter and containing files served by the operating system (*column 5 lines 2-4*); and
a plurality of disks coupled to the storage adapter (*column 5 lines 2-4*).

However, Orr fails to disclose a removable nonvolatile memory or a write anywhere file layout system. Aguilar et al. discloses a removable nonvolatile memory (*column 4 line 58 through column 5 line 5*). Hitz et al. discloses a write anywhere file layout system (*column 5 lines 35-47*).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the removable nonvolatile memory as taught by Aguilar et al. in the invention of Orr. This would have been obvious because Aguilar et al. discloses interchanging ROM with compact flash (*column 4 lines 63-65 and column 7 lines 2-5*) in a similar file server boot environment as that taught by Orr.

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a write anywhere file layout system as disclosed by Hitz et al. in the combined invention of Orr and Aguilar et al. This would have been obvious because the write anywhere file layout system as disclosed by Hitz et al. conserves system storage resources and preserves data integrity (*column 4 lines 20-27*). A write anywhere file layout storage system as disclosed by Hitz et al. adds a layer of fault tolerance to a system, similar to the inclusion of a RAID storage system as disclosed by Orr and Aguilar et al. (*Orr: column 5 lines 2-4*). Because the combined invention of Orr and Aguilar et al. does not limit his storage system to a RAID storage system, and the combined invention of Orr and Aguilar et al.'s functionality is not dependent on the particular type of storage system, it would have been obvious to have included a write anywhere file layout storage system in place of a RAID storage system.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Contino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3657. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Baderman can be reached on (571) 272-3644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PFC
11/8/05



SCOTT BADERMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER